

Message Text

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51

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 GAC-01 SSC-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10

NSAE-00 PA-03 RSC-01 USIA-12 PRS-01 SAJ-01 MBFR-03

NIC-01 OMB-01 ACDA-19 PM-09 NSC-10 SS-15 RSR-01 /115 W
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FM AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4118

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E. O. 11652 N/ A

TAGS: PINR, CZ

SUBJECT: JAROMIR OBZINA, NEW CZECHOSLOVAK MINISTER OF INTERIOR

1. JAROMIR OBZINA, WHO TOOK OVER FEDERAL MINISTRY OF INTERIOR ON MARCH 30, REPLACING RADKO KASKA WHO WAS KILLED IN POLISH PLANE CRASH AT BEGINNING OF MARCH, IS YOUNGER APPARATCHIK WITH APPARENTLY NO DIRECT EXPERIENCE IN POLICE WORK BUT CONSIDERABLE EXPERIENCE IN RELATED FIELDS.

2. OBZINA IS CZECH, BORN IN 1929, WHOSE ONLY HIGHER EDUCATION WAS IN PARTY SCHOOLS HERE AND IN USSR. FROM 1956 TO 1964 HE WAS HEAD OF POLITICAL DEPARTMENT OF ZAPOTOCKY MILITARY TECHNICAL ACADEMY, AND FROM 1964 TO 1965 DEPUTY COMMANDER OF GOTTWALD MILITARY POLITICAL ACADEMY. IN 1965 OBZINA MOVED TO PARTY CENTRAL COMMITTEE, WHERE HE HEADED DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND UNIVERSITIES UNTIL 1968. HE LOST THIS JOB UNDER DUBCEK IN 1968, BUT AFTER SOME MONTHS IN ARMY INSTITUTE FOR DIRECTION OF SCIENCE HE BECAME IN 1969 DEPUTY HEAD AND LATER HEAD OF CC DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND SCIENCE, REPORTEDLY OVER PROTEST OF LEADING SCIENTISTS AND AGAINST WISH OF HUSAK HIMSELF. HIS MOVE FROM THIS CC JOB TO POST OF INTERIOR MINISTER WOULD SEEM TO BE CONSIDERABLE PROMOTION.

WORTZEL

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*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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